



CILSS



Report of the Annual Meeting
of the Network for the Prevention of
Food Crises in the Sahel

Washington (USA), 17-18 November 1999

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Key words:

Network, prevention, food crisis, food security, Charter, food aid,
information systems, aid policy.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP3A	Projet Alerte Précoce et Prévision des Productions Agricoles
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
DIAPER	DIAGnostic PERmanent Project (CILSS)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FEWS	Famine Early Warning System
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System
INSAH	INstitut du SAhel
MSU	Michigan State University
PREGEC	PREvention et GEstion des Crises
PRISAS	Programme régional de Renforcement Institutionnel en matière de recherche sur la Sécurité Alimentaire au Sahel
REDES	Network for the study of economic and social development
RESAL	Food Security Network
SISAS	Information system on food security in the Sahel
VAM	Vulnerability Mapping System
WFP	World Food Programme

INTRODUCTION

The meeting of the Network for the Prevention of Food Crises in the Sahel took place in Washington on 17 and 18 November 1999. The meeting had been organised jointly by the CILSS and Club du Sahel Secretariats and by USAID, and it was opened by Mrs. Cissé (Executive Secretary of CILSS) and Mr. Harry Lightfoot (USAID). Mr. Michel Leblanc, Administrator in the Club du Sahel Secretariat, and Mr. Yamar M'Bodj, food security advisor at the CILSS Executive Secretariat, led the discussions.

I. MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Results of the 1998/99 crop year

The situation had improved markedly as compared with the 1997/98 crop year. Final gross production totalled 10.8 million tonnes, up 19% from the average of the five previous years. This level of output covered 79% of needs and made it possible to reconstitute farmer stocks and safety stocks, yielding average per capita apparent consumption of 202 kg for the CILSS countries as a whole.

Food aid

According to Interfaïs, deliveries of food aid in 1998/99 totalled 231 500 tonnes, down by only 4% on 1997/98. Within these deliveries, it was noted that local purchases had dropped by 13%.

Forecast results for the 1999/2000 crop year

The outlook for the current crop year would appear to be good, offering opportunities for local purchases. Even so, aid was still needed in some areas, such as those that had suffered major flooding. Projected production was 10.95 million tonnes, making per capita availability 212 kg. Given these results, the participants underscored the need for research so as to achieve better analysis and knowledge of human food consumption, as well for continued efforts to heighten the awareness of decision-makers in order to work, in particular, towards sustainable assumption of responsibility for basic data collection.

Results of close monitoring of the crop year

The close monitoring mechanism was used once again in the CILSS member countries. This made it possible in September to provide initial estimates for the 1999/2000 crop year and to identify areas where there was a food risk.

The food situation in other countries

The food situation in the coastal countries of West Africa provided the Sahel with export opportunities, towards northern Ghana and northern Nigeria in particular. At international level, the food situation had remained stable despite a slight decline in world grain production.

Price trends

According to a presentation by FEWS, prices on the whole began to fall in July/August 1999, to varying degrees from one country to another. Moreover, the terms of grain/livestock trade improved for the ranchers.

Vulnerability

Following the various presentations by FEWS (which outlined its vulnerability assessment system, using Chad as an example), WFP (which had carried out an emergency operation

from July to October to assist population groups considered vulnerable in three countries: Gambia, Mauritania and Chad) and the Ap3a Project of the Centre Agrhymet (which presented its system for evaluating structural vulnerability), participants on the whole emphasised the need for greater co-ordination between information and intervention systems and for harmonisation of the methods of approach.

Prevention and management of Sahelian food crises

Participants were presented with exploratory work by the CILSS and the Club du Sahel that sought to open discussion of the following issues: on the one hand, the suitability of aid strategies and of crisis prevention and management, considering the nature of today's crises and the determination to ensure long-term food security and, on the other hand, the Sahel's ability to cope with a serious crisis.

Donors' aid policy

French aid authorities outlined the main features of their food security and aid policy. They cited the diversity of French interventions, and details of a cash-for-work project in Niger were presented. The representative underscored the importance of co-ordination between donors and stressed the role that the Network ought to play in this area.

CILSS strategy in the realm of food security

The CILSS food security advisor presented the Committee's food security strategy, which had two aspects: 1) strategic planning, based on food security and the management of natural resources; and 2) operational considerations, including major technical and policy programmes. He emphasised the synergy between these two types of programmes, and the internalisation of the functions of the DIAPER project, which was drawing to a close.

Grain markets and cross-border trade

The Club du Sahel's summary of grain market trends in the Sahel countries showed that markets had been operating more smoothly since liberalisation and that food supplies had just about satisfied shifting demand. Yet many problems remain unsolved, such as market access for the poorest segments of the population. Future trends, such as rising demand and greater concentration of demand in large towns, called for specific responses using a wider range of policy options. The work carried out in Mali by INSAH and MSU showed that there was a theoretical potential for regional trade. The statistics showed that export flows were limited, but up significantly since the CFA franc had been devalued. The limited volume of exports was due in part to non-tariff obstacles to trade, but probably also to an underestimation of the quantities involved.

CILSS also presented its mechanism for intra- and inter-State consultation on regional food security issues—a mechanism that operated like a forum for deliberation and dialogue with respect to national policies. CILSS was aiming to provide governments with practical tools for aligning policies to support the process of reducing barriers to regional trade.

Monitoring stocks and trade

DIAPER presented its experimental monitoring of private stocks and cross-border flows of grain and other foodstuffs. The survey mechanism had been set up in three countries: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The surveys were in progress, with data collection set to end in late December and a regional restitution workshop scheduled for February 2000.

Major recommendations

- Greater appropriation of information by the population groups that supply it. To this necessary end, foster the development of strategies for transferring information to these groups (e.g. by providing access to communication hardware);

- Creation of a study group on crisis prevention and management that could encompass work already initiated by the SISAS group. The study group could also focus on: how to enhance the awareness of the authorities and of donors regarding the collection of basic data; further consideration of the Food Aid Charter and of evaluation methods; and food security in urban areas and the impact of political crises;
- Creation of a technical working group on diversification of interventions by donors and governments in the area of food aid;
- Enhancing donor partners' awareness of the Network's role in order to revive their interest and participation.

II. MONITORING THE FOOD AND GRAIN SITUATION

A. FINAL RESULTS OF THE 1998/99 CROP YEAR (DIAPER)

Final gross production totalled 10 746 000 tonnes, or 19% more than the average of the past five years and 33% greater than the previous year. This level of output covered 79% of needs, as compared to 63% a year earlier.

Total stocks increased by 65%. Farmer stocks at the end of the period were estimated at 342 000 tonnes. Safety stocks were up in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Only in Chad had the safety stock not been reconstituted.

Total imports came to 2 146 000 tonnes, 190 000 of which involved food aid. This overall volume exceeded the October 1998 forecasts by 21%, but it was 6% below the actual figure for the previous year. Senegal accounted for 44% of commercial imports and Cape Verde for 32% of food aid deliveries.

Despite the fact that some re-export volumes were recorded, no aggregate export figures were available for all of the countries as a whole.

The 22% year-on-year rise in total quantities available translated into apparent consumption of 10 631 000 tonnes, or 20% more than in the previous year, yielding average per capita apparent consumption of 202 kg for the CILSS countries as a whole. National apparent consumption exceeded consumption standards in only four countries: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali and Niger.

Markets had been supplied regularly, keeping prices relatively stable and lower than they had been the year before. On the whole, then, the food situation had improved.

The participants raised the possibility that exports to the north of the coastal countries were underestimated, along with end-of-period stocks, which would result in an overestimation of certain levels of apparent consumption, such as that of Niger, which had been estimated at 280 kg per capita.

B. FORECAST RESULTS FOR 1999/2000

The current crop year was looking very good. Forecast production was 10 947 000 tonnes, or 16% more than the average of the previous five years and 2% more than in 1998/99. Per capita output was down slightly in two countries, however (Burkina Faso and Guinea Bissau). Production covered 78% of needs.

Projected imports had been estimated at 1 776 000 tonnes, down 17% on actual figures for 1999. It was forecast that the total amounts available would cover the requirements of human consumption, estimated at 10 550 000 tonnes, and storage, estimated at 848 000 tonnes (the level of final stocks being higher than in the previous year), yielding a slight regional surplus of 79 000 tonnes.

The regional grain food situation was expected to improve for the second consecutive year, and to present opportunities for local purchases. Some areas still required assistance, however (and especially those having suffered major flooding).

It should be noted that organisational problems with the farm surveys had delayed harvest estimates for a number of countries, while in some cases, as in Senegal, there had been no survey at all.

In addition, the participants noted that the findings of some reports were inconsistent with the levels of other variables, such as price stability in the context of a reported deficit (Senegal), or the food aid forecast in the context of a reported surplus (Burkina Faso). This in fact highlighted the need to keep better track of grain consumption levels, if not the need for input from research to enhance analysis of consumption.

C. RESULTS OF CLOSE MONITORING BY CILSS

The close monitoring of the rainy season, which had been initiated by the CILSS in 1998, was strengthened this year. Three meetings were organised, in March, June and September, bringing together food security players from the Sahel and beyond, the CILSS and its partners. At the meetings, stock was taken of how the food situation was evolving; vulnerable areas and the needs of various segments of the population were identified; and consultations were carried out regarding actions that the partners were taking or that they ought to take.

This year, the meetings had observed that national mechanisms for monitoring the rainy season were still quite fragile in some countries (such as Senegal). Moreover, it was noted that the estimates of grain production that had been made at the September meeting by subjective means (such as interviews and field visits) showed minimal variations as compared with October's objective estimates based on the farm survey.

According to the close monitoring by CILSS, the vulnerable areas for 1999/2000 were primarily those that had recorded natural disasters (due mainly to rainfall) during the wet season.

The experiment was satisfactory and would be continued the following year.

D. RESULTS OF OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WORLDWIDE RESULTS

The food situation in the West African coastal countries offered the Sahel opportunities to export, in particular to northern Ghana and northern Nigeria, where flooding had kept these regions from reaping good harvests. At international level, the food situation remained stable despite a slight downturn in world grain production (attributable to Europe and the United States). Overall, human consumption was continuing the trend initiated in earlier years, whereas consumption by animals was flat. Moreover, prices had begun to rise this year after falling since 1995/96, causing the cost of imports to increase for Sahelian importing countries. Food aid deliveries, which had begun to expand in 1996/97, had been up once

again in the 1998/98 trading year. Lastly, the ratio of stocks to needs was expected to approach the lower limit of the security threshold this year.

E. MARKET ACCESS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE: RECENT PRICE TRENDS FOR GRAINS AND LIVESTOCK IN THE SUB-REGION

FEWS' analysis of 1999 price trends in the Sahel showed that following 1998—a year in which prices had set new records—there was now relative price stability at low levels throughout the Sahel. Underlying the downturn, of course, was the second consecutive year of bountiful grain harvests.

After a year in which millet prices had exceeded CFA F 200 per kilo (in Chad and Niger), they had ranged between CFA F 120 and 150 per kilo in Mali over the entire period of observation (January-October 1999) and had stabilised in Niger and Chad at around CFA F 100 per kilo (or half as much as the previous year at the same time).

In 1998, in Niger, the terms of trade (the quantity of grain sold to purchase one sheep) had become a great deal more favourable for ranchers. Beginning in August, sheep had been traded for a minimum of 200 kg of millet in Niger and for up to 400 kg in Kano (in the Nigerian market bordering on Niger).

III. FOOD AID TRENDS

According to Interfais, deliveries of food aid totalled 231 500 tonnes, including 218 000 tonnes of grain. They were down by only 4% from the previous year, due to a decrease in non-grain products. Even so, this was the lowest level recorded in the past decade (except for 1995/96).

While deliveries were down for the CILSS countries as a whole, they did not decrease in Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Burkina Faso or Cape Verde; the last two countries accounted for more than half of the food aid to the CILSS countries during the period.

Over half of the total volumes involved project aid (the main beneficiaries of which were Burkina Faso, Niger and Cape Verde), with programme aid accounting for 35% (the main beneficiary being Cape Verde) and emergency aid 11% (the main beneficiary being Guinea Bissau).

Grains made up 94% of total food aid deliveries. Of these, coarse grains constituted 38% (a lesser proportion than the previous year but well above the world level). The primary non-grain products were vegetable oils and fats.

During the 1998/99 crop year, the main donors were the United States (41%), Japan (13%), the European Commission (10%), Belgium and Germany (6% each), and Italy and France (5% each).

Food aid delivered from triangular operations and local purchases accounted for 39% of total deliveries. This proportion was still well above the world level of 11%. Nonetheless, it was noted that the volume of local purchasing was down by 13% in the Sahel.

Given these results, some participants pointed to the incoherence of the situation in Burkina Faso, which showed a rather satisfactory grain report yet continued delivery of substantial

volumes of food aid. This could be explained in part by the presence of recurrent food aid projects, such as school cafeterias.

It was also mentioned that Interfais statistics did not reflect the financial assistance, such as contributions to financial safety stocks, that some donors provided in connection with crisis prevention efforts, and that it was therefore impossible to gauge the true input of international aid. To address the problem and propose solutions, it was suggested that a study group be created.

IV. VULNERABILITY: EVALUATION SYSTEMS AND ACTIONS

A. FEWS

FEWS presented its system for analysing present vulnerability in the Sahel. The system was designed to assess food availability and people's access to food at national and sub-national levels, pinpoint the areas affected and the extent of food insecurity, provide a basis for future evaluations and recommend actions. The conceptual model of food security was based on three variables: availability, access and utilisation.

FEWS began its analysis of current vulnerability at the end of the farming season and completed it at the beginning of the calendar year. The contribution to the system of satellite imagery in assessing the progress of the farming season was reiterated. Satellite imagery helped (as a supplementary instrument, in Chad for example) to gauge production. FEWS also emphasised the importance of observing and analysing prices in assessing people's level of access.

B. WFP

WFP presented its Rapid Food Security Assessment of peoples living in selected areas of Mauritania, Gambia and Chad, along with actions undertaken to remedy the problems uncovered (in conjunction with its SEN6041 project).

Based on findings of deficits from the most recent crop years and food savings by the various peoples, the assessment sought to ascertain the extent to which these groups could cope with production shortfalls, and how much food aid was needed, and in what form. The assessment had been carried out by three multidisciplinary task forces which included members of governments, WFP, FEWS, FAO, NGOs and nutritionists. The task forces based their work on participative interviews, nutritional surveys of children and household surveys.

At the end of May, needs had been estimated at approximately 14 000 tonnes for all of the countries combined (including 9 700 tonnes in Mauritania, 800 in Gambia and 3 500 in Chad). Despite loans to compensate for delays in food aid deliveries (requests submitted in February were not shipped until sometime in September), distributions totalling some 12 500 tonnes had not begun until late July in Gambia, mid-August in Chad and early September in Mauritania. They had been completed, respectively, in mid-October, late September and mid-November. Approximately 400 000 people had been affected by these distributions. Subsequently, some 8 300 tonnes of food aid was to be provided for flood victims in the Senegal River valley and in Chad.

C. THE AP3A PROJECT (EARLY WARNING AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FORECASTING) AT THE AGRHYMET CENTRE

The Early Warning Project presented its model framework for assessing structural vulnerability, which was supported by a database of statistics on climate, soil and population broken down to village level for four countries of the Sahel (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal). This framework was part of a more comprehensive system—the Integrated Early Warning System—which was designed to answer fundamental questions about food security.

Conclusion

The above presentations triggered various types of reactions. The multiplicity of systems in existence prompted the participants to reiterate the need to co-ordinate assessment systems amongst themselves and with existing national entities. One point raised was the difficulty of characterising the concept of vulnerability in a way that would be consistent with the various systems in existence. In this respect, it was underscored that while vulnerability was not tied in solely with problems of agricultural output, and of grain production in particular, neither should the role of other income-producing activities in bringing equilibrium to the food security of Sahelian households be overestimated. Moreover, a number of participants noted the development of many systems producing sophisticated data whereas at the present time it seemed that not even basic data were being collected adequately. In this regard, it was recommended that efforts to enhance the awareness of Sahelian decision-makers and co-operation agencies should continue, so that the advances already made, with regard to basic data collection in particular, could be consolidated. Lastly, it was pointed out that while most of the information systems operated thanks to input from the people, it seemed that those people received no feedback from it. It was therefore recommended that work be undertaken to improve the appropriation of information by the people who provided it in the first place.

V. POLICY FOR PREVENTING AND MANAGING FOOD CRISES IN THE SAHEL

A. STUDY BY CILSS AND THE CLUB DU SAHEL

An exploratory study by CILSS and the Club du Sahel on revamping perceptions and actions to prevent and manage crises was presented with the aim of opening discussion of the following issues: whether current prevention strategy was suited to the nature of today's Sahelian food crises; the difficulty involved in combining management of cyclical crises with construction of long-term food security; and lastly, the Sahel's ability to cope with a serious crisis. Deliberations were shaped by a desire to safeguard and build upon past accomplishments (information systems and the Food Aid Charter), integrate outside interventions into local development dynamics, explore institutional management and renew the dialogue between States and non-governmental players. The study also contained a summary of evaluations conducted in recent years of how the Food Aid Charter had been applied.

A number of participants reiterated the importance that should be attached to local strategies and non-governmental players (and NGOs in particular) in establishing stable crisis prevention and management mechanisms. In addition, the absence of serious crises in the past few years was masking the strides that had been made in this area and could limit the need to renew deliberations. Lastly, following the participants' remarks about the absence of specific recommendations, it was reiterated that the study was intended to provoke discussion so that members of the Network might contribute to concrete proposals and actions in this area with a view towards Bamako 2000. To continue the deliberations and make preparations for Bamako 2000, a working group would be set up, and certain members of the Network would be called upon to take part in it.

B. THE FRENCH AID AUTHORITIES' STRATEGY IN THE AREA OF FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD AID

The French aid representative (from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate for Development and Technical Co-operation) outlined the French approach to food security, and more specifically food aid. He reiterated that food security was one of the Directorate's priorities. The Directorate's interventions sought, in the long term, to forge long-lasting partnerships between governments and producers and to foster the emergence of farmers' organisations; in the medium term, to support the establishment of prevention mechanisms and improve the workings of grain markets; and in the short term, to contribute more directly to preventing and managing crises and to contribute to safety stocks. To fulfil this policy, an important instrument was food aid, which involved annual deliveries of some 200 000 tonnes. The modalities of French food aid were diverse (e.g. preferential currency arrangements, constitution of physical stocks and financial safety stocks, and deliveries in kind). The objectives underlying their use were also varied: crisis prevention and management, helping refugees, disaster relief and reconstruction, and long-term food security. In addition, the representative stressed the importance of co-ordination between donors and emphasised the role that the Network could play in this area.

To illustrate the flexibility of the instruments employed, a cash-for-work operation in Niger was presented in detail. Involving some twenty villages, the operation had been launched thanks to food aid counterpart funds. It had consisted in positioning stocks of local grain that was accessible at low cost and to give villagers monetary compensation for a variety of land

reclamation jobs. These arrangements, which brought people back into the local economy, seemed to have satisfied the beneficiaries.

C. CILSS STRATEGY FOR FOOD SECURITY

The CILSS food security advisor outlined the Committee's strategy in this area, which had two dimensions: strategic planning, based on food security and the management of natural resources; and operational aspects, including major technical and policy programmes, emphasising the synergy between the two types of programmes and the internalisation of DIAPER project functions.

VI. GRAIN MARKETS AND REGIONAL TRADE

Grain market trends

A Club du Sahel summary of grain market trends in the Sahel countries was presented. It showed that markets were running more smoothly since liberalisation and that the supply of foodstuffs had just about satisfied changing demand, which was shaped to a considerable extent by urbanisation, economic growth, social diversification and changing food practices. Nevertheless, there were still a great many problems, such as market access for the poorest segments of the population, the fact that supplies were concentrated in the hands of a small number of producers, export-induced price rises and the many policies that interfered with how markets worked. In the future, new trends could be foreseen: demand that would be rising and more heavily concentrated in large towns; increased social and regional differentiation; and the development of regional integration. These trends called for strategic choices and for special responses using a wider range of policy options.

Trends in cross-border trade

Observation by INSAH and MSU of recent trends in cross-border grain trade in West Africa showed that the grain production (rice and dry grains) of countries in the region was not totally correlated, which would theoretically open the door to sub-regional trade. In addition, price studies showed that Malian maize was theoretically competitive year round in Senegalese markets, as were rice and millet on the Ivorian market. The statistics showed that export flows were limited but had increased significantly since the devaluation. The limited figures stemmed in part from non-tariff obstacles to trade, but probably also to an underestimation of the flows, which customs authorities gauged poorly in a context of liberalised trade.

In response to these two studies, the participants stressed that it was important to take income crops into consideration. Another point that was raised was the difficulty of working with official data that had limited reliability. Lastly, the participants agreed that it was necessary to go beyond the deliberation stage and to initiate concrete actions.

Monitoring of stocks and cross-border flows - DIAPER

DIAPER presented its experimental monitoring of private stocks and cross-border grain flows extended to other foodstuffs. The survey mechanism had been instituted in three countries: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, and the surveys were in progress. Collection was to be completed by the end of December and a regional restitution workshop was scheduled for February 2000.

CILSS and regional trade

CILSS presented its mechanism for intra- and inter-State consultation on regional food security issues, including the development of regional trade in local products. The mechanism operated like a forum for deliberation, co-ordination and dialogue concerning national policies amongst the Sahelian countries themselves and between the Sahelian countries and their neighbours. The objective was to continuously improve knowledge of the regional dimension of national policies, to optimise the complementarity thereof and to intensify regional trade in local food and farm products. To these ends, the Committee centred its actions on providing countries with practical tools for policy co-ordination and supporting the process of reducing barriers to regional trade. With regard to the first point, CILSS had developed a matrix for monitoring national policies, conducted joint explorations of the regional dimensions of PASAs and strengthened co-operation with other initiatives in the region (WAEMU, ECOWAS and WAEN). With regard to the second point, CILSS focused essentially on constraints arising from organisation, information and transport, on abnormal practices on the roads, on quality standards, health regulations and the marketing system.



CONCLUSION

The CILSS food security advisor called upon members of the Network to formulate specific proposals and messages to be presented at the Bamako 2000 summit.

A number of avenues for proposals were set forth and could be placed under four main headings:

The role of the Network, the CILSS and the Club du Sahel

Here, it was noted that the presence of donors at the meeting was minimal (thus reducing the scope of its role of donor co-ordination), that CILSS's role in monitoring the crop year was expanding, and that new players, such as farmers' organisations, were emerging in the formation of the Network. In this context, it seemed that the respective roles of each party, and of the Network and its annual meeting in particular, had to be reassessed. It was mentioned that CILSS, with help from the Club du Sahel secretariat, would be organising the Network's next annual meeting. It was still necessary to heighten the awareness of donor partners for a renewal of their commitments to the Network. These topics would be addressed by the proposed working group that would help make preparations for Bamako 2000.

Information systems

With regard to information systems on food security in the Sahel (SISAS), the recommendations were to:

- Allow national farmers' organisations to work on knowledge of farm stocks and food security strategies. It was necessary to know each people's contributions to their own food security.
- Continue exploring the issue of vulnerability.
- Heighten the awareness of the authorities and donors with regard to basic data collection.

- Implement the recommendations of the SISAS group [see previous year's report, SAH/CR(99)100].
- Incorporate consultations with other bodies such as Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS).

Farmers' organisations

The representative of farmers' organisations cited concrete proposals for strategies for transferring information to the people:

- organise national workshops on the role and functions of information systems, bringing together the leaders of farmers' organisations and providing opportunities for meetings between information holders and information users;
- enable national farmers' federations to be linked directly to national and regional information networks thanks to suitable communications equipment;
- help farmers' movements to formulate their visions of food security and development proposals.

Crisis alleviation

Here, it was proposed that:

- a working group be created to explore alternatives to food aid, diversify tools for crisis alleviation and incorporate them into aid statistics;
- assessments of the application of the Food Aid Charter be continued, using new approaches to evaluation.

Areas for further exploration

Lastly, new areas for exploration were raised:

- Linkages between food security and the urban environment.
- Consumption standards and the WTO.
- The consequences of a political crisis: some participants expressed their concerns for the possible repercussions on the Sahel of a social crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.
- CILSS outreach to the region.



Note: An extra half-day, organised by USAID for Network members and their guests, was devoted to a presentation of the US strategy for food security and food aid.

A USDA analysis of the world food situation was presented; showing medium-term trends by country, the analysis was supported by a forecasting model which included production, imports and income distribution. MSU presented the lessons learned from its food security programme, and IFPRI outlined the findings of its study of the world food outlook to 2020.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

- *Rapport final de la rencontre régionale sur le suivi de la situation agricole et alimentaire au cours de l'hivernage 1999 au Sahel*, CILSS/PREGECE unit, Dakar, September 1999.
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